



Bitterroot National Forest

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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One of Two New Starts Grows Quickly

HAMILTON, MT; JULY 31, 2007. --- A thunderstorm passed over the southern end of the Bitterroots on Monday evening, leaving in its wake two new starts.

The Rombo fire was reported at 12:30 and by press time at 3:30 pm had grown to an estimated 200-300 acres. Due to the heavy fuels, quick fire growth, and the difficult access, initial attack efforts are primarily air-based, with two heavy tankers, one single engine tanker, two medium helicopters and a heavy helicopter committed to this fire. The fire is located on the West Fork Ranger District northeast of Painted Rocks Reservoir.

The second start is also on the West Fork Ranger District near Nez Perce Peak. It is 1/10 of an acre in size and is being staffed by heli-rappellers.

Those portions of the Bitterroot National Forest outside designated wilderness are under Stage II Restrictions; lands within the Selway-Bitterroot and Anaconda-Pintler Wilderness areas are under Stage I Restrictions. Stage 1 and 2 restrictions are in place across many areas in western Montana and northern Idaho. For specific Fire Restriction Information one call the Bitterroot National Forest offices at 406-363-7100 or visit <http://www.mt.blm.gov/fire/restrictions/index.html>.

The Montana Department of Environmental Quality issues a daily forecast and discussion of potential smoke impacts throughout the state: <http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>

Current information regarding these fires and any new starts can be found at the Bitterroot National Forest's Dispatcher's website, <http://63.196.254.151/WildWeb/WCMT-BRC.htm> .

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